

Chapter 1 - Section 1 & 2

Marvin Chapel - 1878

Marvin Chapel (M. E. Church South) is located on the
State Highway Route # 218 about one and one-half miles above
Mill Point.

The land for the church was given by Jacob F. and Mary
Cockley and the deed was made February 17, 1877 to Joseph
Smith, Sr. H. Overholt, Granville McNeal, Henry K. McClure,
Wm. I. Courtney, Isaac W. Smith, George Hill, Michael Seales,
and Wm. Glendonson, Jr., Trs. for M. E. Church South, one acre
of land for a house of divine worship, for the use of the
ministry and membership of the M. E. Church South, provided:
that in case of division or disruption of said Methodist
Episcopal Church South, that then the property shall be under
the control of the majority of the vote of the male membership
of the said church over the age of twenty-one.

Before the Civil War, John H. Mackman owned this land
and selected this site for the church, but he moved to Georgia
at the beginning of the Civil War. The idea of a church was
disposed with at that time and later the land was given by
Mr. Cockley and his wife.

Clark Wooddell built the church and many of the members
assisted in the building. The people also gave what money
they could. Joseph Smith took several men and went to
the creek to get white pine logs from which he saved the

Footscotus County

Building for the church. The church is 30 by 50 feet and the seats, pulpit and railing are all made of walnut.

Before the Civil war, John H. Ruckman built a log school house and services were held here until the war. Then in 1868 when another school house was built, services were held in that.

Warvin Chapel was built in 1878 and was dedicated on November 11, 1878. The Rev. A. F. Bond was to have preached the dedicatory sermon but was waterbound on his way to the church and the sermon was preached by the Rev. J. R. Van Horn, a circuit rider, who served this section at that time.

Mr. Menick Ruckman, who gave me this information, says the first preacher that he can remember was Rev. Joyce, who married his sister in 1872. When the school house was built in 1888, Rev. Joyce preached here.

The next preacher was Rev. Baldwin, who also preached in the school house. Mr. Ruckman remembers one incident very well concerning the Rev. Baldwin. There had been a very dry spell and the farmers were needing rain badly. This particular Sabbath morning was a beautiful day with not a cloud in the sky. Rev. Baldwin offered up such a fervent prayer for rain that before the service was concluded, the rain was pouring down.

Rev. Van Horn came in the spring of 1875 and was here when the church was built.

The following list of ministers is perhaps not in order

not is not nearly correct as Mr. Buckman could remember.

Rev. Y. W. Wheeler

" Townsend

" Dillis

" Lynch

" York

" Graybeal

" Armstrong

" Whitsett

" Adkins

" G. C. Lambert

" Neal

" Gooddall

" Eye

" W. F. Lowance

" Kent Swecker

" Wagner

" Hypes

" Garacuff

A. C. Pugh

" J. H. Light

" Kessler

" L. J. Shires, who serves the church at the present

time.

Among the first members of the church were the following:

Rocktonia County

Joseph J. Smith
Abigail Smith
Thomas Courtney
Henry H. McClure
Michael Woales
Father Caroline Woales
Millard Huckman
Isaac B. Smith
Am. Clendenen, Jr.
G. L. Aldridge
Benick Huckman

The preachers were paid as they are today, by subscription and with food. Mr. Huckman said that the salaries in those days were very small and that they were frequently unable to pay the full amount promised.

All denominations were wrapped in this church at first. The Methodists held services twice per month and the Presbyterians once. Everyone attended all the services.

At the present time there are two services each month, one morning and one evening. The membership of the church is about sixty persons.

Marvin Chapel is situated in a very large oak grove. Years ago they had big meetings, all day services, and picnic dinners in the grove.

There are always people on Sunday School here. The present Supt. is Mrs. Walter Arbogast. The enrollment is

about 1870.

Ervin Chapel is well known for its social services. They are held the year around on the third Sunday afternoon. Members from all around the county go there to sing. Mr. Fred Jackson has charge of these services. Each Sunday morning when they have no preaching services, they have prayer meeting.

The stewards in this church are: Mr. Kenny Hogsett, Mr. Richard Muldrige, Mr. Boyd Willey and Mr. Albur Moore.

The Ladies' Aid Society was organized fifteen years ago with Mrs. Fred Jackson as the first president. Mrs. Jackson is president at the present time. This is a very active organization. They have recently painted the church, bought a piano, installed lights. They keep the church in good repair. Two silver collection plates were given to the church by Mr. Wallace Hedger and Mrs. Lon Loper of Plains. Since this society was organized, they have never missed a single meeting.

In 1928 the Ervin Chapel congregation held their fiftieth anniversary. They had an all day service, dinner on the ground and a song service in the afternoon.

Rev. J. C. White is the present pastor and was called to the church in 1928. He is educated at the University of North Carolina, College. He came here from ...

Joseph, Millboro, Leebert, Sharon, [unclear], and [unclear].
[unclear] is the Methodist parsonage at Millboro. [unclear]
[unclear] is not a stranger found here as he served at
Millboro some years ago.

Information: Mr. Lemick Lockman who remembered
when the church was built.
Mrs. Ester Leebert
Rev. L. E. Jones